

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Attorney Docket No. 031181
Serial No. 10/670,291

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1, 9, 13, 15, 16, 18 and 19 are amended. The amendments are made in response to a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112. Accordingly, entry of the amendments after final rejection is earnestly solicited.

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. This rejection has been overcome by the present amendment.

Page 19 of the present specification discloses that the resist composition can include crosslinking agents. Applicants claim what they now consider to be the invention, i.e., a resist pattern thickening material which consists essentially of a resin and a surfactant.

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kozawa et al. in view of Nozaki et al. Favorable reconsideration of this rejection is earnestly solicited.

Each of the cited references is assigned to the same assignee as the present application. At the time of invention, the claimed invention was subject to assignment to Fujitsu Limited. Accordingly, under 35 U.S.C. 103(c), these references do not qualify as prior art to the present application.

For at least the foregoing reasons, the claimed invention distinguishes over the cited art and defines patentable subject matter. Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

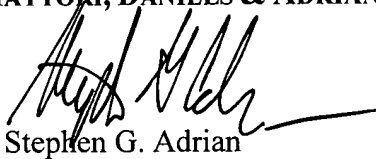
Should the Examiner deem that any further action by applicants would be desirable to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned attorney.

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If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen G. Adrian', is written over the printed name.

Stephen G. Adrian
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 32,878
Telephone: (202) 822-1100
Facsimile: (202) 822-1111

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